

S. S. McClure

Samuel Sidney McClure (February 17, 1857– March 21, 1949) was an Irish-American publisher who became known as a key figure in investigative, or muckraking, journalism. He co-founded and ran *McClure's Magazine* from 1893 to 1911.

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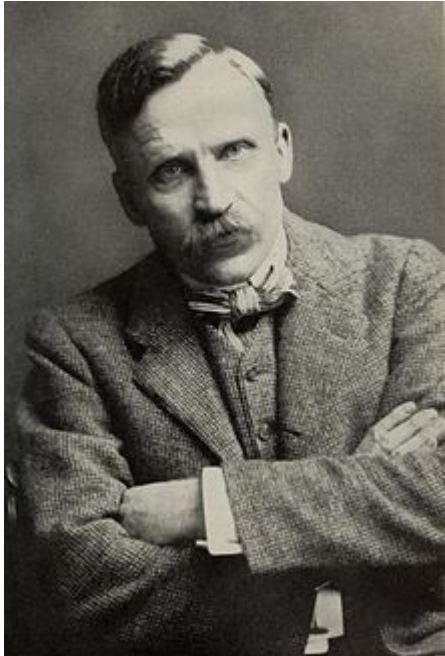
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Biography

He was born to an Ulster Scots family in County Antrim in what is now Northern Ireland, and emigrated with his widowed mother to Indiana when he was nine years old. He grew up in near poverty on a farm and graduated from Valparaiso High School in 1875. He worked his way through Knox College, where he co-founded its student newspaper, and later moved to New York City. In 1884, he established the McClure Syndicate, the first U.S. newspaper syndicate,^[1] which serialized books.

McClure created a whole new form of writing for his journalists that we still use today. Instead of demanding that his writers give him articles for his paper immediately, he would give them all the time they needed to do extensive research on their topics.

Rudyard Kipling was one writer who rejected McClure's offer of a long term contract, quoting as justification Ecclesiastes (Chapt. 33): "As long as thou livest and hast breath in thee, give not thyself over to any".^[2] Kipling was also present when McClure began to contemplate the launch of a new literary magazine. He recalled in his autobiography:

S.S. McClure	
	
S. S. McClure (c. 1903)	
Born	Samuel Sidney McClure February 17, 1857 County Antrim, Ireland (now Northern Ireland)
Died	March 21, 1949 (aged 92) New York City
Education	Knox College
Occupation	Investigative

"He entered [my home in Vermont], alight with the notion for a new Magazine to be called 'McClure's.' I think the talk lasted some twelve—or it may have been seventeen—hours, before the notion was fully hatched out."^[2]

journalist, publisher,
editor

Spouse(s) Harriet Hurd (1883-1929; her death)

He founded *McClure's Magazine* in 1893 and ran it successfully until 1911 when poor health and financial reorganization forced him out (and many of his writers had defected to form their own magazine). *McClure's Magazine* published influential pieces by respected journalists and authors including [Jack London](#), [Ida Tarbell](#), [Upton Sinclair](#), [Burton J. Hendrick](#), [Rudyard Kipling](#), [Sir Arthur Conan Doyle](#), [Robert Louis Stevenson](#), [Willa Cather](#), and [Lincoln Steffens](#). Through his magazine, he introduced [Dr. Maria Montessori's](#) new teaching methods to North America in 1911. McClure was a business partner of [Frank Nelson Doubleday](#) in Doubleday & McClure, ancestor to today's [Doubleday](#) imprint. After McClure left Doubleday, he established the publisher McClure, Phillips and Company with [John Sanborn Phillips](#). Phillips left to purchase *The American Magazine* in 1906 and McClure sold his book publishing operations to [Doubleday, Page](#) in 1908.^[3] After he was ousted in 1911, *McClure's Magazine* serialized his ghost-written autobiography.^[4]

He died in New York City in 1949, at the age of 92. He is buried next to his wife Harriet at Hope Cemetery in [Galesburg, Illinois](#).

See also

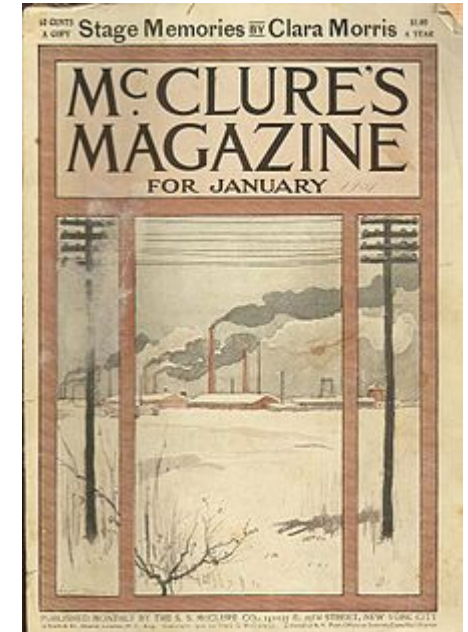
- The Life of Mary Baker G. Eddy and the History of Christian Science*

Notes

- Charles Fanning, *The Exiles of Erin: Nineteenth-Century Irish-American Fiction* (2nd ed. Chester Springs: Dufour Editions, 1997), 13.
- Rudyard Kipling, *Something of Myself: for my friends known and unknown*, London: MacMillan and Co., 1951 (first published 1937). p. 125
- Batra, Nandita; Dzwonkoski, David (1986). "McClure, Phillips and Company". In Peter Dzwonkoski (ed.). *American literary publishing houses, 1900-1980. Trade and paperback*. Dictionary of literary biography. Detroit, Mich: Gale Research Co. pp. 227–228. [ISBN 978-0-8103-1724-6](#).
- S.S. McClure, *My Autobiography* (<http://cather.unl.edu/index.mcclure.html>)

Further reading

- Lyon, Peter (1963). *Success Story: The Life and Times of S. S. McClure*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- McClure, Samuel (1914). *My Autobiography* (<https://cather.unl.edu/index.mcclure.html>). New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co – via Willa Cather Archive. (Ghostwritten by [Willa Cather](#))



Cover of January 1901 issue of *McClure's Magazine*.

- Goodwin, Doris Kearns (2013). *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

External links

- [McClure Publishing Company Archives \(http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/mcclure.htm\)](http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/mcclure.htm) - Special Collections, University of Delaware Library
- [Samuel McClure biography \(http://www.spartacus-educational.com/USAmcclure.htm\)](http://www.spartacus-educational.com/USAmcclure.htm)
- [S. S. McClure \(https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12108588\)](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12108588) at [Find a Grave](#)

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